

PROVIDENCE
JOURNAL
SEP 30 1967

M- 67,050
S-204,809

Sentenced by German Reds

Ex-R.I. Man Ruled 'Spy'

Peter Feinauer, 27, formerly of Providence, was sentenced yesterday to 15 years in prison by an East German court as a spy for the Central Intelligence Agency.

The official German news service, ADN, reported that Mr. Feinauer provoked border incidents while allegedly making films for the National Broadcasting Company.

The report said the Rhode Island native was found guilty after a trial that lasted several days. There had been no earlier reports on the court proceedings.

According to the news service, Mr. Feinauer's "films were evaluated by the Western Berlin CIA headquarters and were also used for political agitation against the German Democratic Republic."

Besides spying, ADN said the American "took part in the kidnaping" and removal of East German citizens to West Berlin, and gave the CIA information on East German high schools, training and research centers.

Further, Mr. Feinauer obtained information on East Germans "who were then blackmailed into espionage



Peter Feinauer

work for the CIA," the news service said.

The CIA in Washington had no comment on the trial.

Frank Donghi, manager of news for NBC in New York, said Mr. Feinauer was a freelance photographer who once in 1961 submitted film to the network which was not used.

Mrs. Victoria Feinauer, the prisoner's mother, said yesterday in West Berlin that she could not believe her son was a CIA agent.

"Oh, that's crazy," she declared. "I can't imagine him doing anything like that."

Mrs. Feinauer said in reply

to a question that she knew her son had taken films of a parade in East Berlin. "But anybody can do that," she explained.

She said U.S. authorities told her to expect a stiff sentence for her son: He was arrested Oct. 7, 1966, but no announcement was made of this until Mrs. Feinauer released the information last February.

The Feinauer family came to Providence from Germany in the early 1930s. The late Albert G. Feinauer, Peter's father, worked for Gorham Manufacturing Co. as a silver designer.

Neighbors on Rutherglen Avenue, where the family settled, last night recalled the father as a clever person but one hard to get along with.

"The father was an absolute trouble maker," one neighbor said. "He was a very excitable man and difficult to get along with."

The father was considered "brilliant" with cameras, and he used to lecture and show films of flowers opening up. Years later, his son was to win a high school science fair award for the same feat.

Before World War II broke out, Mr. Feinauer would spend his lunch hours listening to Hitler's speeches over a car radio, acquaintances said. Workers at the Gorham plant complained about Mr. Feinauer's attraction to the Germans' leader. During the war, Mr. Feinauer continued to work for Gorham, but at home.

Neighbors also recalled that the Federal Bureau of Investigation visited the family on at least one occasion after complaints had been received that "certain meetings" were being held in the Feinauer house at 111 Rutherglen Ave.

"The people at the house were German and all spoke with an accent," a neighbor recalled. "People were sort of afraid of them."

and he was brought up "in the old-fashioned way," a woman neighbor said. "He was browbeaten by his father."

At the same time, neighbors said, Peter was given whatever the family thought would help his development. A long-time resident of the area commented:

"Peter was never allowed to run around or be part of any neighborhood group. He was forced to put his mind to good things. The father would spend any amount of money for a tape recorder for good

recordings. Peter was just as clever as his father."

According to the neighbors, Mrs. Feinauer dressed her son in second-hand clothing.

"He always looked as if his pants or coat was two inches too short," it was said.

The family were members of the Providence Meeting of the Society of Friends (Quakers). Peter was graduated from Classical High School in 1957. His father had died two years earlier.

The boy was described by acquaintances as tall, thin and quiet and a collector of animals, including turtles and snakes.

The youth and his mother moved to West Berlin in 1959. In 1964, he returned here, visited his former home and commented on the change of wallpaper.

He also showed films of the Berlin Wall during a brief lecture tour in Rhode Island, and then returned to Europe.

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